



Privatisation is underway at the National Gallery. But its workers are on all-out strike—and they need your help, reports Nick Clark
 >>Pages 10&11

TROTSKY FOR TODAY

Seventy-five years after the assassination of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky, Sue Caldwell says his ideas are still relevant today
 >>Pages 14&15



Socialist Worker

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AS LABOUR RIGHT ATTACK CORBYN...

IT'S RIGHT TO RESIST AUSTERITY

RIGHT WING attacks on Labour Party leadership candidate Jeremy Corbyn and his policies haven't stopped his support growing.

People join his campaign because they want to see a challenge to the Tories.

Tarik helped steward an 800-strong Corbyn rally on Monday night in Ealing, west London.

He told Socialist Worker, "I've been on the left all my life, but never felt represented. Having someone like Corbyn who seems to have the solutions we need is refreshing." Natalie Meddings,

a pregnancy adviser, was also at the rally. She thinks Corbyn's supporters are frequently dismissed as "young naive people".

She said, "But the campaign has made someone like me want to come and see a politician speak—someone who's given up on politics, has a job and three kids, and has too much to do. So there must be something."

Such support shows the potential for mobilising resistance to the Tories that goes beyond the Labour leadership battle.

JEREMY CORBYN

LET'S ALL PROTEST AGAINST THE TORIES IN MANCHESTER 4 OCT >>Page 3

MIGRANTS

Europe's new crackdown kills more refugees

REFUGEES FLEEING the war in Syria say people they believe are Greek coastguards have sunk some of their boats.

Police on the island of Kos teargassed others and locked them in an abandoned football stadium. This is part of the repression against migrants that has seen 100 dog handlers sent to Calais.

>>Page 7

LONDON UNDERGROUND

Bosses pushed back on Tube but more can be won

TUBE WORKERS in London were set to strike on Tuesday and Thursday of next week against attacks on terms and conditions, health and safety and jobs.

Workers will still have to fight Night Tube—but recent shutdowns made bosses back down from imposing new working conditions.

>>Page 20

EXPLOSION

Tianjin disaster exposes risks for China's workers

AT LEAST 114 people have died after industrial explosions shook Tianjin.

Some reports claim that the factory was storing 70 times the permitted amount of sodium cyanide. Yet officials allowed the firm to operate close to a residential area.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'It will mean rout, possibly annihilation'

Tony Blair on prospect of Jeremy Corbyn winning the Labour leadership election

'If Jeremy Corbyn is crowned Labour leader he should thank ex-PMs Tony Blair and Gordon Brown'

Trevor Kavanagh in the Sun

'He is a Sinn Fein-loving, monarchy-baiting, Israel-bashing believer in unilateral nuclear disarmament'

London mayor Boris Johnson has his say on Corbyn

'Yes we must support the disabled, but we must support ordinary people as well'

Labour leadership candidate Liz Kendall

'We are penalising nobody'

Tory minister Matt Hancock defends forcing unemployed people into "boot camps"



Bosses now get 183 times more in pay than workers

THE BOSSES of Britain's top 100 firms have grabbed almost £5 million each.

The typical pay packages of the highest-paid bosses are now 183 times greater than the average worker's annual salary of £27,000.

In 2011 the figure was 139. In 1998 it was 47. Only one in four FTSE 100 companies pay all staff the living wage, which is £7.85 an hour.

The typical salaries of executives leading the biggest firms on the London Stock Exchange was £4.96 million in 2014, up from £4.92 million in 2013.

A report by the High Pay Centre think-tank, said the top ten highest-paid bosses alone were paid more than £156 million between them.

£42,978,000



WPP
Sir Martin Sorrell

£19,510,000



SHELL
Ben Van Beurden

£16,176,000



RELX
Erik Engstrom

£13,333,000



TUI TRAVEL
Peter Long

£11,834,000



PRUDENTIAL
Tidjane Thiam

£11,544,000



LLOYDS
Antonio Horta Osorio

£11,237,000



RECKITT
BENCKISER
Rakesh Kapoor

£10,608,000



HARGREAVES
LANSDOWN
Ian Gorham

£9,868,000



EXPERIAN
Don Robert

£9,289,000



BP
Bob Dudley

● PEERS WHO did not vote in a single debate last year claimed more than £100,000 in expenses allowances.

During the whole of the last five-year Parliament, 62 members of the House of Lords never voted and yet took home a total of £360,000.

Peers can claim £300 tax-free for every sitting day they attend the House, as well as limited travel expenses. But some appear to stay for just a short period, without attending any votes.



The queue for expenses

● THE LABOUR right hasn't just lost the plot of the leadership election. Former Blairite minister Alan Johnson has compared Tessa Jowell to Kylie Minogue.

In a letter urging Labour members to make her their London mayoral candidate (Jowell, that is, not Minogue) he wrote, "She is Labour's Kylie—everyone loves her and she only needs a first name."

Amazon workers race to the bottom

AMAZON factories are notorious and now The New York Times has exposed what it's like to work at the retail giant's Seattle offices.

Amazon encourages its "Amabots" to harshly criticise themselves and each other for their shortcomings.

Team members are ranked, and those at the bottom get eliminated every year. It is deliberate policy to keep turnover high. One worker said, "You learn how to diplomatically throw people under the bus... It's a horrible feeling."



Amazon boss Jeff Bezos

Workers have been criticised for scaling back their hours to take care of sick and dying family members or small children.

A woman who had thyroid cancer was given a low performance rating after she returned.

Another woman suffering from breast cancer was put on a "performance improvement plan" because her personal "difficulties" had interfered with fulfilling her work goals.

According to former Amazon employee Bo Olson, "Nearly every person I worked with, I saw cry at their desk".

Bloody Ukipers going over there...

MIKE Hookem, Ukip MEP for Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire, said he had been threatened by a "migrant" in the French port of Dunkirk, apparently. He added that, "I hope police find these criminals, we can't have them in the UK".

But according to French police the man who allegedly threatened Hookem was in fact British.

And his car had English number plates.



● UKIP'S battle against extremism continues. Euro MP for the East of England, Tim Aker, has lashed out at calls to ban smoking in pub beer gardens.

He said, "These fanatics won't lay off smokers nor do they realise how much damage these plans will do to the pub and club trade. People have it hard enough as it is and should be allowed to go for a pint and a smoke in peace."

Workers can't afford to have children

THE MINIMUM cost of a child from birth to age 18 is now £149,805. Families with both parents working full time on minimum wage fall short by 16 percent.

The Cost of A Child 2015 by Loughborough University's Donald Hirsch for Child Poverty Action Group reveal that families where both parents are out of work fall short by 43 percent.

Lone parents in work fall short by 13 percent. And lone parents out of work miss the amount by 39 percent.



25%

of disability claimants applying for help so they can live independently are encountering serious difficulties, including delays and unfair dismissal of claims

22%

of claimants needed the help of Citizens Advice. This included some 11,500 people in one month out of 52,000 claims

Commonwealth Games failure

A MOUNTAIN of Commonwealth Games furniture worth millions has been left to rot in a damp and filthy warehouse.

One supposed legacy of Glasgow 2014 was to be that thousands of mattresses, beds, wardrobes and chairs from the athletes village would be distributed to poor families.

But according to the Daily Record newspaper, Glasgow Housing Association has allowed thousands of pieces of furniture to be destroyed.

They were held in the warehouse for over a year.

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Momentum is building for anti-Tory demo in autumn

by NICK CLARK

ACTIVISTS ACROSS Britain are gearing up for a week of protest outside the Tory Party conference in Manchester in October.

The main event is the TUC national demo on Sunday 4 October.

And anti-austerity campaign group the People's Assembly plans protests and activities throughout the week, from Saturday 3 to Wednesday 7 October.

The mood of resistance is already growing in Manchester.

Protesters at a homeless camp in the city centre have defied court rulings and forced evictions to stay put.

Meanwhile, activists have been gathering every day at Piccadilly Gardens to debate and organise.

Katrina Lawrie, who has also been involved with the homeless camp, is one of them.

She told Socialist Worker, "There's stuff happening in Piccadilly Gardens nearly every day."

"We chalk different anti-establishment slogans on the ground, then just leave the chalk out."

"People come along and use the chalk and start discussing different things."

Focus

"Everybody agrees the best way to go about things is to organise through the People's Assembly. The main focus is 4 October."

The activists have been gathering in Piccadilly Gardens since a group of young unemployed people staged a rooftop protest and banner drop there last month.

Now some of those protesters have got involved with planning the People's Assembly protests in October.

Katrina said, "One of the people who was on the rooftop protest has



THE PEOPLE'S Assembly anti-austerity demo in June showed there is huge potential for a mass march

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

got really involved with the People's Assembly meetings. She's really keen on organising stuff like roadblocks.

"I think we need to do stuff like that."

She added, "At a big planning meeting about a month ago there were about five or six different active groups working."

"So there's different things happening at the same time."

"There's lots of different groups that are trying to work with each other."

"There seems to be a real sense of working class solidarity."

Activists outside Manchester have started planning too.

Protest

People's Assembly campaigners in Bristol recently held nine stalls across the city to fill their transport to the protest.

And Bristol-based mental health worker Dave Weltman is making sure that a delegation of people from his workplace join the TUC demo.

Dave told Socialist Worker, "It was incredible so many people were up for going to the demo."

"Someone came up and offered to go round to help book up the coach."

"People were really excited about all going together."

Coaches have been booked in towns and cities across Britain.

Every trade unionist can call on their union to book transport and publicise the demo.

Activists everywhere need to work to make sure the coaches fill up—and then book more.

The reaction to Jeremy Corbyn's Labour leadership election campaign shows there are huge numbers of people who want to see an end to austerity.

And the People's Assembly protest in June showed what is possible.

We need to work to make Manchester even bigger.

IN BRIEF

Fares rise triple speed of wages

RAIL FARES have risen nearly three times faster than wages over the last five years.

New analysis from the TUC and the rail unions' Action for Rail campaign shows that between 2010 and 2015 fares increased by 25 percent. Average pay went up by just 9 percent.

Brum libraries can't buy books

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL has stopped buying new books for its libraries because of cuts.

It hopes that any books published in the last year will be donated to libraries.

In 2013 the £183 million Library of Birmingham was opened but has since had its opening times cut and staffing levels slashed.

DWP sanctions are great, not

THE DEPARTMENT for Work and Pensions (DWP) admitted making up comments from supposed "benefit claimants" about how good the Tories' sanctions regime is.

One example, "Sarah", was "really pleased" to be sanctioned. The DWP said the testimonies were for "illustrative purposes only".

Cops banned from searches

EIGHT Northamptonshire police officers have been stripped of the power to stop and search people.

This follows new rules brought in last October to cut the number of searches deemed "inappropriate".

ON THE WEB

Top five stories this week on socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 What will happen if Jeremy Corbyn does win?
- 2 Postcapitalism —will the system die a natural death?
- 3 What is class in the 21st century?
- 4 The truth about Calais—migrants speak out
- 5 Second solid Tube strike halts London

Now it's boot camps for the unemployed

TORY MINISTER Matthew Hancock has ramped up the assault on welfare with plans to force young unemployed people into "boot camps".

They will lose their benefits unless they attend.

The Tories claim this is a solution to youth unemployment that's stuck at 16 percent—nearly three times higher than general unemployment.

But they're also slashing 24 percent from adult education funding, making life harder for young people.

The Tories scapegoat unemployed people as "scroungers"—but this is about making all working class people

work harder on lower wages.

It's part of their plans to slash a further £12 billion from welfare.

The Tories face a major dilemma.

They know their talk about the British economy is all smoke and mirrors.

The new CPI inflation figures last Tuesday barely inched up to 0.1 percent—a sign of a flat-lining economy.

So the Tories are trying to coax bosses to invest more with tax breaks and

attacks on wages, welfare and union rights.

Hancock challenged all four Labour leadership candidates to support the boot camps.

Andy Burnham, Yvette Cooper and Liz Kendall all disgracefully abstained on the Welfare Bill last month with the majority of Labour MPs.

But the Tories' plans could backfire. Their attack on working tax credits could expose the right wing propaganda about benefit claimants being "scroungers".

Tomáš Tengely-Evans



Tory minister Matthew Hancock

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Corbyn-mania drives the right to despair, bluster and threats

by JUDITH ORR

THE LABOUR Party establishment was resorting to desperate measures in a bid to block Jeremy Corbyn's campaign as ballot papers went out for the leadership election this week.

Over 600,000 people are eligible to vote after a surge of registrations brought down the Labour website before the deadline on Wednesday of last week.

Under new rules, which allowed supporters to sign up for £3 to vote, as many as 70,000 registered. Another 92,000 registered through affiliated trade unions and around 82,000 people have fully joined the Labour Party since the May election.

This compares to 180,000 ballot papers distributed under the old electoral system in the 2010 leadership election.

The right of the party is terrified of losing control if the majority of the new supporters have signed up to vote for Corbyn.

They claim Labour will only have a chance of re-election if it sticks to its austerity-lite and migrant bashing policies.

Spin

Tony Blair's right hand man Peter Mandelson reportedly tried to get the other three candidates to stand down and declare the election void before ballot papers went out.

The Labour right may look to sabotage Corbyn's leadership or split from the party if he wins.

Ex Labour prime minister Gordon Brown weighed in to the debate on the eve of voting. Brown, who never won an election as Labour leader, lectured on the importance of winning elections (see below).

But far from being unpopular Corbyn's anti-austerity message has a powerful resonance for many people suffering under the cuts who want to see some resistance.

More than 1,000 came to hear him speak last week in the biggest public meeting Cardiff in

BACK STORY

Voting began in the Labour Party's leadership election on Monday of this week

- Left wing Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn is the surprise front-runner
- Thousands of people have attended meetings for his campaign
- A surge of new members and "supporters" registering to vote crashed Labour's website
- The winner is to be declared on Saturday 12 September

South Wales has seen since the 1984-85 Miners' Strike. They burst into spontaneous applause when Corbyn spoke in support of migrants and nationalisation.

Kris Hedges told Socialist Worker, "There was a real sense of optimism. People came out saying, 'This is what Labour is supposed to be about'."

One poll last week showed that more of the public thought Corbyn would be the best candidate to hold the Tory government to account.

The right has resorted to smears about Corbyn's international policies as his views on domestic issues prove hard to undermine.

These include the accusation that he is anti-Semitic because he supports organisations that oppose the state of Israel.

As Corbyn comes to define the election, Yvette Cooper and Andy Burnham are competing to present themselves as the candidate who can beat him.

Burnham said he wants to "capture" the energy of Corbyn's campaign. But that energy will be lost if it becomes merely a vehicle for a Labour machine seeking to win the next election at all costs.



On other pages...

Syriza's betrayal leads to a political crisis in Greece >>>Page 6



OVER 700 people came to hear Corbyn speak in Glasgow

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

Crowds rally to hear a left alternative

JEREMY CORBYN travelled through Scotland and Wales last week speaking to packed meetings.

Over 700 people heard him speak in Glasgow. Despite Scottish Labour's collapse since last year's referendum, people said it was its biggest Labour rally there for over 30 years.

The original venue, the Oran Mor, was half the size and sold out in less than an hour.

An enthusiastic crowd cheered and clapped Corbyn throughout his speech as he made clear his opposition to the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons and to the war in Iraq.

His campaign has given Labour supporters a chance to attack the dominant Scottish National Party (SNP) from the left—something the Blairites are incapable of.

In Dundee more than 400 came to Corbyn's meeting. A few SNP supporters were interested in Corbyn's views on some of its policies. He fudged slightly on Scottish independence, but was

Jeremy Corbyn in Wales last week

positive about working with the SNP to get rid of Trident.

Corbyn spoke to 500 people in Llandudno, a town of just 20,000 people in North Wales.

At the Cardiff rally, one Labour activist from the Rhondda Valley said people were furious with their MP Chris Bryant for backing Yvette Cooper.

It's not just Blairites who've attacked Corbyn. Welsh Labour has joined in, with first minister Carwyn Jones claiming his campaign was "divisive".

Former first minister Rhodri

Morgan has backed Cooper, along with some left Welsh assembly members (AMs).

Morgan was the successful left wing challenger to Tony Blair's stooge Alun Michael in 2000.

In Cardiff Corbyn asked people to help the Labour Party get back into office—and alluded to people who registered as supporters becoming members.

But the movement we need to build can't be inside Labour. **Thanks to Kris Hedges, Jeff Hurford, Jackie Shellard, Duncan Brown and Arthur Nicoll**

'Power' before principles?

GORDON Brown argued that Labour's history shows that principles matter less than getting elected.

He said, "We cannot deliver in government without power, we can deliver principles only when we have power."

Yet Labour lost the last two general elections on an unprincipled platform, including one when

led by Brown himself.

Brown's own political trajectory shows what happens if you dump your principles and focus only on winning votes.

He originally came from the Labour left, was a student activist and a member of the Tribune group. He ended up promoting neoliberalism and imperialist wars.

Brown and out

NHS cancels operations as cuts create beds shortage

THE NUMBER of NHS operations that are cancelled has hit a 13-year high, reveal new figures from NHS England.

Some 16,180 were cancelled in the three months to June alone.

There has been a 22 percent rise since David Cameron came to office in 2010.

The number of patients who are not readmitted within the target time of 28 days also increased.

The cause is a chronic lack of beds. Bed numbers have been cut and the decimation of social care services means it's harder to discharge patients.

The NHS is at breaking point after five years of Tory cuts and privatisation.

Monitor watchdog boss David Bennett reassured bosses they

would not be fined for missing waiting time targets.

And despite a growing staffing crisis, he urged them to fill vacancies "only where essential".

The Tories want to drive down workers' terms and conditions to make way for more privatisation.

Virgin Care is one

of two firms bidding for a £28 million contract for children's community health services in Bristol.

The Care Quality Commission watchdog slammed Virgin last year for "putting patients at risk" in one of its clinics in Croydon, south London.

Tomáš Tengely-Evans

Some 16,180 operations were pulled in three months

Charity finds mostly white child abusers in Rotherham

A CHILDREN'S charity has said that child sexual exploitation (CSE) is continuing in Rotherham, South Yorkshire—and that most of the abusers are white.

A report by professor Alexis Jay published a year ago estimated that at least 1,400 children had suffered CSE between 1997 and 2013.

Barnado's boss Javed Khan said, "From the Jay Report there was a very strong message that Asian male

perpetrators were behind the abuse.

"But what I'm seeing now from my visits is that since 2013 the majority of perpetrators are white."

He added that around 20 percent of the victims Barnado's had been in contact with were boys.

"Many new cases of child sexual exploitation have arisen over the period since September 2013 and we've identified 40 children who are at risk," he said.

The real number is likely to be higher because Barnado's has only had one worker finding victims in Rotherham for most of that time.

Sadie Robinson

Barnardo's charity boss Javed Khan

Tories 'fast-track' fracking

DAVID Cameron announced plans to "fast-track" fracking after the Tories' plan to roll out fracking failed to take off.

Cameron wants to make sure there is no repeat of Lancashire County Council's vote against allowing firm Cuadrilla to frack near Preston—under pressure from protesters outside.

Cuadrilla is set to appeal, but even

if it succeeds the opposition will have meant a 16-month delay.

The latest batch of fracking licences go on sale this week.

But no new fracking has gone ahead since Cuadrilla's rig in Blackpool was shut down for causing earthquakes in 2011.

The government claims it is simplifying planning procedures.

But its plans would

limit local councils' ability to veto fracking plans.

Some steps in the process would be no longer under its control. Others would have tighter deadlines for opposition.

The fast track is in stark contrast to the Tories' policy on wind power—which they have made much easier for local opposition to block.

Dave Sewell

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

STRUGGLE IS THE KEY TO REAL WORKERS' POWER

RIGHT WING attacks on Jeremy Corbyn's Labour leadership bid have created a daily debate about the nature and purpose of the party.

Former Labour leader Gordon Brown made his intervention against Corbyn last Sunday.

He name dropped everyone from George Orwell and Clement Attlee to Aneurin Bevan and Keir Hardie.

When they are in trouble the Labour establishment try to claim they are the natural inheritors of the party's history.

So Brown said he went on demonstrations in the 1980s but claimed that people were "powerless" because Labour was not in office.

He dismissed those wanting to protest and fight cuts as merely expressing "righteous anger".

Another ex-Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, argued that sticking to political principles is "corrosive self-indulgence".

Their words insult everyone who wants to fight austerity and expect Labour politicians to at least put up some resistance.

But the arguments reveal the contradictions that have existed

within Labour since its birth.

It works to express the needs of working class people, but also seeks to contain them within the confines of the system.

Those in Labour attacking Corbyn claim that getting Labour elected is the only way for ordinary people to win change.

They talk of being in government as being "in power".

They claim Corbyn's left wing ideas will never win votes among the public, and therefore it's deluded for Labour to make principled stands.

But the size of Corbyn's meetings, and the 250,000-strong demonstration in London against austerity in June, shows that

The Labour establishment talk of being in government as being in power

standing up to austerity is popular.

It is not true that the working class is in "power" when Labour is in government. Much of the power the ruling class wields lies outside parliament.

Labour governments, even those lauded as part of a "golden age", have at times opposed workers' demands.

It is especially galling to hear politicians who embraced neoliberalism and waged imperialist wars declare that workers' only hope is their sort of Labour Party.

Corbyn's campaign has generated enthusiasm precisely because people are yearning for an alternative to Tory austerity—and the Labour politicians who pander to it.

We want to turn that mood of anger into a fight.

The radical left Syriza party in Greece has just signed up to a deal imposing cuts (see page 6).

This shows the weaknesses of looking to win real change through parliament.

We need to organise in every workplace and college, to bring people onto to the streets and show the Tories we can resist their assault.

TERROR COMES FROM TOP

AN HORRIFIC bomb attack on a Hindu shrine in Thailand killed 22 people and injured 123 on Monday of this week.

It wasn't clear who carried out the attack as Socialist Worker went to press.

The media was quick to say it was aimed at tourists, though most of those killed were local people.

Some militants do target Western tourists, partly because Western media tends to ignore

deaths that don't involve them.

The media has linked the attack to the "war on terror" and said more repression is needed to counter international terrorism.

Thailand already has a repressive government.

When General Prayuth Chan-ocha seized power in May 2014 the military promised a quick return to "democracy".

But the date of promised elections keeps being put back.

The junta repealed the constitution, banned public

assemblies and censored the press. It has repressed Thailand's pro-democracy Red Shirt movement.

The shrine where the attack took place is by an intersection where the military killed dozens of Red Shirts in 2010.

The military has implausibly blamed them and used it as an excuse to crack down further.

More repression will lead to more violence. It is mass movements that can end terror, whether from bombers or states.

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ANALYSIS

PANOS GARGANAS



Resistance follows betrayal in Greece

THE GLARING contradiction in Greece's government is producing a political crisis.

Left wing party Syriza was elected on an anti-austerity programme and now it is implementing the worst austerity measures yet.

To win a majority in parliament it is relying on the votes of the right wing and centre parties that supported a yes to austerity in last month's referendum. But the yes vote was a minority.

This situation isn't sustainable. Prime minister Alexis Tsipras cannot go on governing like this. But he is between a rock and a hard place.

MPs voted last week to sign the third "memorandum of understanding" with Greece's creditors.

They confirmed support for the austerity measures they voted for last month as part of an agreement for a new loan from the European Stability Mechanism.

The government hopes to receive the first instalment by Thursday of this week. It will go straight to the European Central Bank to pay for the last loan.

Every future instalment will depend on a green light from inspectors checking up on the government's finances to make sure it is pushing ahead with austerity.

In particular this is to speed up privatisations, creating a fund to oversee the selloff of everything the public sector can sell. But the mood for a fightback is there.

Usually August is a month where nothing happens in Greece. This year there was a shutdown of the railways by workers fighting privatisation. And there was a strike against sackings at one of the main private TV channels that appears to have won at least a partial victory.

The fact that left wing MPs inside Syriza voted against the deal reinforces this mood.

Pressure

It's a virtuous circle. People's anger puts pressure on MPs to vote against the deal, and when they do it makes people more confident they can fight back.

Not all the 44 rebel MPs are in the organised Left Platform, and Tsipras is manoeuvring to try and divide them.

Government officials have said there will be a vote of confidence—a way of putting pressure on rebel MPs to see how far they will go.

And Tsipras has promised a special congress of Syriza. This is being used as an argument against a split by the Left Platform.

A group including 17 MPs from all sides of the vote has called for unity, and if the Left Platform walks out before the congress it could lose some waverers.

To create an independent group, Left Platform members will need to get themselves in order politically. What basis would they split on?

Most are opposed to the euro but they need to decide whether that also means a break with the European Union, for example.

We in SEK, the Socialist Workers Party in Greece, argue that they should break with Syriza—and follow the logic of this towards anti-capitalist left in Antarsya.

Even if Tsipras succeeds in splitting away some MPs he is expected to go for a new election. But that's no easy way out.

A new election will be confirmation of the political crisis. It will mean the government collapsing within eight months of the election as a result of going against the majority who voted no to austerity.

And it will produce a shift to the left. If the Left Platform does split it could give visible form to this.

But if it compromises inside Syriza both Antarsya and the Communist Party expect to see their votes go up.

And if Tsipras manoeuvres his way out of calling an election, he will run into a strike wave. There's no way he can cut pensions, for example, without facing a strike.

The first major demonstration will be on the first Saturday of September, when the prime minister always opens the Thessalonica fair, and the unions call a protest.

This year it will be Tsipras that faces the demonstration, and it will be dominated by left wing opposition to the bailout.

Panos Garganas is editor of Workers Solidarity, Socialist Worker's sister newspaper in Greece

Soldiers' families demand Iraq inquiry publication date

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

FAMILIES OF British soldiers killed in Tony Blair's Iraq war have threatened legal action to force the Chilcot Inquiry to set a date to publish its report.

Rose Gentle's son Gordon died in Iraq more than 11 years ago. She has always insisted her son died because of lies Blair told in making the case for war.

Rose told Socialist Worker, "We are demanding they set a date, by the end of this month, for when it's going to be published. If they don't we will be pushing for a judicial review."

"They've had plenty of time and we're sick of waiting."

Rose is part of a group of families supporting the legal battle.

The inquiry was set up to whitewash the Blair Labour government's lies over the 2003 Iraq war.

It is supposed to be a "non-judgmental" investigation into Britain's involvement in the illegal invasion.

It stopped taking evidence in 2011 but has never published its findings.

Criminals

The head of the inquiry, Sir John Chilcot, says publication is delayed to allow the various war criminals criticised in the report to respond. But there is no deadline for them to do so.

The fact that those criticised in Chilcot's report are being given so much time to respond has angered many.

Rose said, "They shouldn't even be given the chance to respond."



ROSE GENTLE (above, right), mother of soldier Gordon, who died in Iraq. **Inquiry chair John Chilcot** (left)



Shockingly the families are not updated directly by the inquiry.

"We don't get told anything, it's the press that tell us what's happening," said Rose.

War criminal Blair has since gone on to lead a life of luxury. He recently reared his head to warn against

voting for Jeremy Corbyn as Labour's new leader.

Rose said Blair should back away from politics. "He's done enough damage in the world," she said. "And he's certainly got enough money."

But many anti-war campaigners have different ideas about where Blair should end up.

As Rose said, "He should be up in front of the Hague for war crimes."

Scottish National Party MP Chris Stephens, who represents Rose's constituency, spoke out in parliament earlier this year. He said, "These people have waited for answers for far too long".

His comments are welcome. Rose added, "I'd like to see first minister Nicola Sturgeon step up and give her support and push the inquiry."

"Every other politician should be backing us too."

It has been a long campaign by the military families to get answers about the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Our rulers want Chilcot to hide their crimes in Iraq.

But Rose is defiant. She said, "The families are not going to walk away from it."



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Syrians die under Western bombs

EIGHT CIVILIANS died in a US strike on Atmeh, northern Syria, last week.

Civilians are paying the heaviest price for the West's wars.

The people of Iraq are living under Western airstrikes, launched under the banner of taking on the sectarian Islamist group Isis.

Isis is a product of the conditions left behind by the West's war and occupation of Iraq.

And in Syria the US has been bombing Isis for almost a year. Yet the civilian death toll is



mounting.

Syrian civilians don't just face Isis and US bombers—they also come under attack from the regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Assad's airstrikes killed over 100 civilians in Douma, an area held by rebels near the capital Damascus last week.

At least 27 died in a similar bombing on Wednesday of last week.

The Tories want to extend bombing in Syria.

We need to mobilise to say no to any Western military intervention.

FIGURE IT OUT

6,174

Western airstrikes in Iraq and Syria since August 2014 according to Airwars.org

3,802

Airstrikes in Iraq

2,373

Airstrikes in Syria

1,247

Highest estimate of civilians killed. The lowest estimate is 489

Europe's new crackdown murders more migrants

by DAVE SEWELL

REFUGEES FLEEING Syria's civil war are facing new dangers as they approach Greece's islands from Turkey.

Police attacked refugees with tear gas and batons, then locked them into a stadium overnight on the island of Kos last week.

Reports of potentially lethal attacks on their dinghies have since emerged.

Turkish fishermen who rescued a group of refugees in Turkish water last week released footage that appears to show Greek police deliberately sinking the refugees' boat.

The dinghy is overloaded but seemingly stable, until a boat the fishermen identify as the Greek coastguard arrives. When it leaves, the dinghy is sinking.

A number of refugees told journalists from the Huffington Post they were attacked by "pirates" or "commandos" trying to rob them, to turn them round—or sink them.

Refugee Mohamed told of a speedboat full of black-clad men with guns and whips. He said, "They shot at the boat with three bullets."

"They circled around us trying to flip our boat." They whipped his back for refusing to turn around.

Student Abdel Hadee told of being stripped and robbed in a similar attack.

Receive

Many refugees carry their whole life savings with them. Local aid workers say they often receive distress calls from refugees whose outboard motor has been stolen on the way, leaving them at risk of shipwreck.

Refugee Hassan Akkad from Damascus accused the Greek police coast guard of working alongside the gunmen.

He and other refugees called in the patrol boat after an attack left some people in the water.

Meanwhile, British politicians were congratulating themselves for apparently slowing down the flow of people through the Channel Tunnel from Calais by increasing security.

Around 100 dog handlers are being recruited to beef up security at the tunnel entrance, according to charity L'Auberge des Migrants.

Police repression against refugees is widespread.

It had a direct role in one of the deaths at Calais this summer, of a woman who was run over while dazed by pepper spray.

Hundreds of Senegalese migrants protested in Barcelona on Tuesday of last week after a DVD vendor was killed following a police raid.

The raid was part of a new clampdown.

It's also one reason for the deaths

REFUGEES IN a makeshift migrant detention centre at an abandoned football stadium on the island of Kos

at sea. Each time one route for refugees is closed off, it forces people to try other more dangerous ones.

Residents of Palermo in Sicily greeted survivors of the latest shipwreck earlier this month.

And their mayor Leoluca Orlando pointed out that if it weren't for anti-migration laws they could have come cheaply and safely by plane.

He said, "But we force all of them to live in this illegal condition, to go through Libya and risk their lives in the sea."

"In the future, the European Union will be held responsible for this genocide, exactly like we held Nazi fascism responsible for genocide 70 years ago."

Orlando singled out Britain for criticism for closing its border at Calais. He said, "From Palermo comes a message—you should be ashamed."



Got a story?

Email ideas to
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

EYEWITNESS

Solidarity with Calais migrants

PEOPLE IN Britain are organising solidarity with the Calais refugees in response to the politicians' and media's racist attacks.

A Facebook page was set up last week called "Glasgow Solidarity with Calais".

People donated food and clothes and then Diane Fotheringham, one of the organisers, and I drove to Calais on Tuesday of last week.

Diane told Socialist Worker, "We asked people to make donations of clothes and food at two points in Glasgow."

"Within two days we had to ask people to stop because the van was already full."

"People were also asked to make donations to a crowdfunding web page 'Just Giving'. The initial target was



The loaded up van

£500, and with two days to go before the appeal finishes almost £4,000 has been donated."

Driving through the ferry port was like driving through a prison—barbed wire fencing surrounded the road.

The refugee camp in Calais was a humbling experience.

People fleeing war and persecution are trying to build a society within the limitations of their situation.

Shops, restaurants, mosques and churches are springing up.

As far as we could see, there is little if any tension between the refugees and the residents of Calais.

We had a meal in a restaurant run by an Afghan refugee.

Refugees use the restaurant to meet and listen to the radio. While we were there they were listening to gunfire and bombing in Kabul.

The refugees are in desperate need of jackets, shoes and other materials.

We plan to give the donated money to an organisation that will supply materials for building huts.

Diane added, "While we were there other vans filled with clothes and food were also turning up from Britain."

"It is clear that the mainstream media is not the voice of many ordinary people."

Yet none of this would be needed if the British government let the refugees in.

Bob Fotheringham in Calais

Report slams Yarl's Wood

YARL'S WOOD immigration detention centre is a "place of national concern", according to a new report by chief inspector of prisons Nick Howard.

Women inmate's conditions have deteriorated during the past two years.

The report said that 42 percent of women said they "felt unsafe at the centre"—two years ago this was 29 percent. It said, "Health care had declined most severely. G4S Justice Health had provided health services since September 2014."

The previous inspection in 2013 found improving conditions—but that there were many problems. For instance, "the decision to detain was much too casual".

Yarl's Wood has been in

the news since an undercover Channel 4 news investigation filmed staff making racist and sexist remarks.

Details of the Channel 4 secret filming only appear in a footnote of the report.

While the Home Office calls these detention centres "removal centres" around two thirds of those detained at Yarl's Wood are released.

The survey found that 16 percent of women had children they would normally be caring for outside. It noted, "Neither the Home Office nor Serco kept data on the number of women who had caring responsibilities."

Yarl's Wood should be closed immediately—but so should all of Britain's 13 detention centres.

Ken Olende



IN BRIEF

Protests in Brazil after scandal

HUNDREDS OF thousands of people protested in Brazil last Sunday for the impeachment of left leaning president Dilma Rousseff.

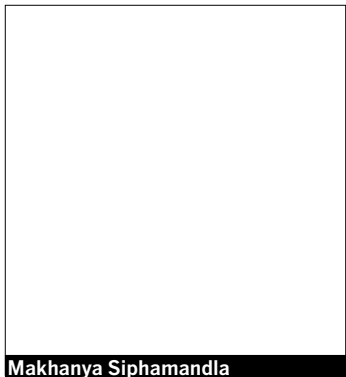
She has lost support since she was re-elected less than a year ago partly due to a corruption scandal at state oil firm Petrobras.

Austerity, rising inflation and unemployment have seen her popularity plummet most strongly among the poor.

But the demonstrations were mostly middle class and linked to right wing parties who would make these problems worse.

Anti-austerity protests were set to take place on Thursday of this week. But the left wing Party for Socialism and Freedom (PSOL) warned that Rousseff's supporters were trying to turn them into pro government rallies.

South African activist on trial



Makhanya Siphamandla

LEADING SOUTH African Amcu miners' union activist Makhanya Siphamandla was due to start trial this week. He is charged with attempted murder.

Makhanya was arrested in March last year at the height of the strike by more than 70,000 platinum miners. He was accused of being one of two people who attacked a member of the rival National Union of Mineworkers.

But Amcu colleagues said Makhanya was addressing strikers at a mass meeting shown on national television when the incident for which he was arrested took place.

Hunger striker near death

PALESTINIAN prisoner Mohammed Allan is in danger of dying after spending more than 60 days on hunger strike.

Israeli forces have held Mohammed prisoner without charge since November.

Mohammed could become the first Palestinian prisoner to die as a result of a hunger strike if he is not released.

Tianjin disaster exposes risks for China's workers

by **SADIE ROBINSON**

A SERIES of massive explosions shook Tianjin, north east China, on Wednesday of last week. Chinese media reported that the blasts burned an area of some 20,000 square metres.

At least 114 people have died. Hundreds more are injured and around 70 people are still missing, including dozens of firefighters.

The explosions took place following a fire at a warehouse run by Ruihai International Logistics. It was thought to contain several hundred tonnes of sodium cyanide.

Some reports early this week claimed that the firm was storing 70 times the permitted amount of sodium cyanide there.

The site was also licensed to handle calcium carbide, which releases flammable gases when mixed with water.

The government inspected the site between November and December 2013. It reported that five of over 4,300 containers didn't meet packaging standards and found inappropriate "danger" labelling.

Substances

The following year the government said it could not identify the substances stored at the site. This was due to poor records, damage to facilities and "major discrepancies" with customs.

Yet officials allowed the firm to continue operating close to a residential area.

Chinese law states that facilities handling hazardous materials must be more than 3,200 feet away from homes and public buildings. The residential complex Vanke Port City was 2,000 feet from the warehouse.

Firefighters told Chinese media

THE CRATER left by the explosions in Tianjin

they were sent to tackle the initial fire without being aware of the hazards. So they poured water on it, which is thought to have set off the explosions.

Angry residents and families of firefighters protested outside a press conference organised by local officials the day after the explosions. Police attacked them while the government threw its energy into restricting reporting of the disaster.

The poorest were hit hardest.

Many migrant workers who had moved to the area from the countryside are homeless after the blasts destroyed their dormitories and huts. Yet nearby luxury apartments and office buildings remained intact except for shattered windows and minor damage.

Construction worker Wang He lived less than a kilometre from the warehouse. He said his dormitory "looked as if a giant had punched the side of the building".

The China Labour Bulletin had recorded 26 workplace explosions this year before the Tianjin explosions. Between them these killed 65 people and injured 119.

The State Administration for Work Safety reported 862,225 accidents at work in the first four months of the year, causing 16,243 deaths.

Bosses' drive for profit, with government support, is putting millions of working class people at risk in China.

Ecuador halted by anti-cuts strikes and protests

INDIGENOUS GROUPS and trade unions across Ecuador came together in a national day of strikes, road blocks and protests on Thursday of last week.

The government is pursuing cuts, tax hikes, and an extension of mining and oil production in the rainforest to get out of a financial crisis.

President Rafael Correa came to office in 2007 after protests brought down his predecessor. He is seen as part of the last two decades' "pink tide" of left wing Latin American governments.

He is bitterly opposed by the right—and accuses all those who oppose him of plotting a violent "coup" like those

attempted by the opposition in Bolivia and Venezuela.

But he has taken steps to criminalise protest and clamp down on the media while seeking to develop Ecuador's

economy at the expense of its workers and its environment.

Even his more progressive reforms have been underwritten by an aggressive expansion of rainforest oil production.

As oil prices have fallen and the crisis in Europe and the US has seen Ecuadorian migrants send less money home, the government's income has fallen. Yet it has to pay the bills for a range of roads and infrastructure projects.

The current wave of protests was kicked off by a hike in inheritance tax. Though the middle class were most enraged, the tax kicks in at under £23,000—affecting any worker who owns their home.

Indigenous organisations marched hundreds of kilometres into the capital Quito to protest. They say their movement will continue.

Dave Sewell

Strikers block the Pan-American highway in Ecuador

Attacks on vulnerable

THE government's refusal to class sanctioned jobseekers with mental health conditions as "vulnerable" is as callous and cruel as it is cynical.

In 2013-14 record numbers of sanctions affected one in six jobseekers. Many of these are people with mental health conditions, who make up 50 percent of all benefit claimants.

Throughout their vicious attacks on benefits the Tories claim to be protecting the "most vulnerable". This has always been a lie.

We must unite across impairment groups, disabled and non-disabled, workers and claimants to fight their attacks.

Ellen Clifford
London Dpac

GM food for thought?

THE SCOTTISH government is right to ban the growing of genetically modified (GM) crops.

GM crops under capitalism are developed to patent seeds for profit. It largely favours intensive industrial farming.

We're often told that we need GM crops to prevent famine, but we already have more than enough food to feed the world—the problem is distribution.

Until our food is produced for need and not profit we should not let profiteers gamble with our food production by playing with a science of which the long term consequences remain uncertain.

Cheryl McCormick
Glasgow



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Rulers speak different to us

NOT MANY people know that Britain's rich one percent speak a different dialect from the rest of us.

When millionaire David Cameron said, "We are all in the same boat," he was speaking onepercentese.

What did Osborne mean when he said, "This will be a budget for working people"? Again onepercentese.

Please can Socialist Worker readers send me other examples to compile a short dictionary called Understanding Onepercentese.

Richard Pitt
Sheffield
dickpitt03@yahoo.com

Listen to Buffy Sainte-Marie

I WAS pleased to hear singer songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie interviewed on BBC Radio 4 recently.

In the 1960s she wrote the protest song Universal Soldier, after the US government denied it was at war with Vietnam.

But most memorable was Soldier Blue on the massacre by the US Army of a Cheyenne village at Sand Creek.

It was written for the film of the same name in 1970.

She was also the first woman to appear on television breast feeding her baby, something which even to this day is frowned upon.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

A French London Tube strike

LOVE THE French idea of going to work but not charging anyone to travel, #HitThemInThePocket.

Gareth Phillips
on Twitter

Privatisation never a solution

NATIONAL Gallery strikers should remember that privatisation has been a failure wherever its claws tear the people apart.

Derrick Gaskin
on Facebook

National Gallery all-out strike

SOLIDARITY TO an inspiring group of workers—proud to have been on their picket lines

John Burgess
on Twitter

The new US-Cuba relations and the capitalist powers

CUBA AND the US have just resumed normal relations after decades of US boycotts and hostility.

I was in Cuba for five weeks in 1961 not long after the US Bay of Pigs invasion had been swiftly repulsed.

Just two years earlier the Cuban revolution had toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista whose state violence and corruption the US had supported.

Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, beat him with barely a battalion of middle class and rural guerrillas.

Cuba's switch to the Soviet bloc was evident, so were the armed militia on the streets.

Batista had given US capitalism free reign in a semi-colonial setting resulting in extremes of poverty, sickness, homelessness

and unemployment.

The revolutionary government brought in state-led and voluntary supported solutions.

It provided the people with free education and health care, nationalisation of land, property and industry, rent control and public housing, a political programme not dissimilar to that of Jeremy Corbyn.

Should he get into office the opposition he'll face will not be just in parliament or within his own party.

It will be from capitalist powers outside the British political system, which, after more than 50 years of deterrence, Cuba also had to contend with.

Inevitably the question will be put, faced with undemocratic opposition to Corbyn's humane

programme, will his supporters fight for a revolutionary road?

And what kind of revolution do we need to build?

Cuba's survival, despite the collapse of the rest of the Soviet bloc, should not persuade people to follow Castro's path.

His victory was decided by the military prowess of his small army. Not by the masses of the working class.

This may be why US researchers who I kept in touch with, sent me a published report recently on how they had listened to Guevara declaring admiration for Israel.

No doubt because of its military prowess and armed kibbutz.

The wrong sort of politics will lead us along the wrong roads.

Nick Howard
Sheffield

Playtime for profiteers in a south London park

A COMPANY called Go Ape is due to open a tree-top adventure playground in Battersea Park, south London, next month.

The catch is that they charge quite a bit for entry.

Wandsworth council demolished the wonderful original adventure playground in 2013.

It was a public service, free for all, and it enabled families from all backgrounds to mix. It catered for young people

up to their teens, but its replacement is only suitable for primary school children.

Some 86.6 percent of people opposed the plans in the council's own survey.

Local teenagers have been robbed of their playground, and now this.

Go Ape is not welcome. I encourage others who feel the same to be there on its opening day to make their opposition known.

Colin Crilly
Wandsworth Against Cuts

Don't let bigots deny us abortion rights

THANK YOU for your article highlighting the abortion clinic closing due to "protests" (Socialist Worker, 1 August).

It is alarming that Christian fundamentalists can exert such pressure and terror that an institution to legally help women is shut down.

There is a similar case in the German city of Stuttgart. They are also staging "pro-life" marches in Berlin each September—the biggest with thousands of participants carrying

Pro-choice protest in Berlin

white crosses. These people are linked to far right clerical and secular organisations and parties.

And they are liars. Their claim of abortion causing serious psychological

damage has been time and again refuted.

The most interesting study comes from the US in 1989. Surgeon General C Everett Koop wanted to prove "Post Abortion Syndrome", and failed.

Koop was so embarrassed that he tried to suppress the findings.

"Pro-Lifers" pose a massive threat to women's rights and sexual self-determination. We have to counter them.

Rosemarie Nuenning
Berlin, Germany

UNION-BUSTING



Candy Udwin

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Defend our rep Candy

NATIONAL GALLERY bosses want to break the union so they can force through their attacks.

That's why the fight to get victimised PCS union rep Candy Udwin reinstated is central to the workers' fight.

Candy was suspended ahead of the first walkout in January on trumped-up charges of "breaching confidentiality".

Bosses later sacked her in May for gross misconduct.

She had drafted a question for a PCS official that asked about the cost of hiring private security firm CIS. Bosses had brought in the firm to run the gallery's Sainsbury Wing.

But an interim employment tribunal ruled that it was unreasonable to accuse Candy of gross misconduct.

The judge said that a full tribunal would likely find that Candy had been acting legitimately as a union rep when she drafted the question.

This points to the real reason for getting rid of Candy—she is a proven class fighter.

One of the striking gallery workers told Socialist Worker, "Candy was fired because she was asking questions about the privatisation."

"It's an attempt to break the union. Candy was the person that they took out, but it could have been any of us."

Candy's appeal hearing concluded on the same day that the privatisation deal went through. The result had not been announced as Socialist Worker went to press.

It will be a disgrace if the appeal does not result in Candy's reinstatement.

But the best way to get Candy's job back is to make sure the strikers win.

THE FIGHT at the National Gallery has entered a crucial stage—and the need for solidarity with the striking workers is greater than ever.

Bosses signed a deal on Tuesday of last week that will outsource some 300 gallery staff to private security firm Securitas.

Workers walked out on an indefinite strike on the same day.

The PCS union members had been battling to stop the selloff from going through since January.

They've now gone all-out to stop the onslaught on their working conditions before Securitas takes over in November.

Securitas has said it won't change the workers' terms and conditions or make anyone redundant.

It said the workers will "remain a valued part of the National Gallery family". It is all smoke and mirrors.

Bosses like to outsource to companies such as Securitas because they specialise in providing cheap labour on poor conditions.

Securitas admits as much itself on its website. It explains that "private security companies are able to pay their staff at a lower rate" than public sector workers.

Gallery workers are already worried about being victimised—especially after bosses sacked PCS rep Candy Udwin (see left).

The strikers only speak to the press under conditions of anonymity, or if their names are changed.

But if gallery bosses ever feel like getting rid of someone now, Securitas will do their dirty work.

One striker, whose name we have changed to Adam, told Socialist Worker, "A lot of it is the gallery doing away with the responsibility. If they sacked one of us that would be the gallery's problem."

"But if they farm it off to Securitas, then it's no longer the gallery's problem. All they need to say is, we don't want that person working here anymore. Then it's Securitas' problem to deal with."

Securitas may never break its promise to keep all the current staff on the same terms and conditions.

But there are sneakier ways to drive down standards.

One of the strikers' key demands is that all new workers must be employed on the same terms and conditions as current staff.

Another striker, whose name we have changed to Chris, explained, "You've got a core of existing staff whose terms and conditions will be protected."



"But say if someone were to join the gallery, what kind of Securitas contract are they going to be on?"

"Every existing person will eventually be replaced by a new person on not so good terms."

"They're going to say don't worry about your terms and conditions. But actually there's stuff in motion that is going to change the character of the workforce."

And Securitas has ways it can hurry this process along.

There's nothing to stop the private security firm from transferring some of their workers to other Securitas-run sites, such as a supermarket or a carpark.

BOSSES ARE using other methods to push workers out, such as taking away the chairs the gallery assistants need to sit on.

Chris said, "A lot of the people have worked here for 25 to 30 years."

"So things such as chairs are quite an attritional way of getting staff to say, 'I'll knock it on the head. I'm going to take early retirement'."

The aim is to turn the gallery from a public service to a profit-driven business.

"It's about the gallery becoming more of a sort of corporate machine-type place," said Adam.

"I think with the way it's going, maybe the emphasis will go from being about the art to being purely about security."

"We're not really security guards, and we've got to get what is in effect a bouncer's license. It's not a public service anymore."

This is partly why the strikers' battle has struck a chord with a wide range of

Privatisation is underway and workers are on strike to stop their conditions, their union service. And they need your

SOLIDARITY

All the details you need to support this crucial fightback

- Urgent appeal for donations. Sort code 08 60 01, account no 20169002. Cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG
- Visit the picket lines from 9-11am every day and 5-6.30pm on Fridays.
- Contact strikers with a message of support or an invitation to speak at noprivatisationatng@gmail.com
- Visit the Facebook page No Privatisation at the National Gallery

people. Many of the gallery's visitors have stopped at the picket line to offer support and donate to the strike fund.

Regular visitor Justin Schlicht told Socialist Worker, "Most of the people I know have heard about the strike and are against the privatisation."

"The staff know about the works and can talk about them. Sometimes I stop to talk to someone and I can't get away from them because they want to talk about the work."

"That's what's so appalling about the possibility of privatisation."

The attacks on the gallery workers put them at the sharp end of a broader assault on workers and trade unions—particularly in the public sector.

As Chris said, "It's just purely ideological. It just ties into the government's wider agenda."

It's purely ideological—it ties in with the government's agenda



Gagged—workers and supporters



The National Gallery building in central London's Trafalgar Square

More online...

Framed—the fight to defend Candy Udwin tinyurl.com/p82jszd



t the National Gallery. Its
p fat cat bosses defacing
n and a valuable public
r help, reports Nick Clark

MANY OF the public sector workers who've visited the picket lines have drawn comparisons. London Met lecturer and UCU branch secretary Christina Paine visited the picket line on Thursday of last week.

She told Socialist Worker, "We're fighting the same things—privatisation and outsourcing. It's about what is public and what belongs to us." And Sandy Nicoll

from the Unison union at Soas university said, "Throughout the public sector we're facing outsourcing. That's why this is an important battle."

The strike has only grown stronger since the privatisation went through.

The all-out action has seen strikers mount some of their biggest picket lines to date.

Some 70 strikers filled a strike meeting on Tuesday of last week—for some it was their first one.

Speaking on the picket line, Candy told supporters, "We've learned going on all-out strike is the way to go."

"We've had more support in the last couple of days than we've ever had."

"We're not giving up a fight to protect the service that the gallery provides and all the terms and conditions of the staff."

And Chris said, "I think there was a feeling that signing the contract would demoralise people."

"But the reaction from staff has been to support the strike even more."

"I just think that people really feel strongly that this is a public asset, and I think they're disgusted that it has been sold off."

"It's that principle. Now it's staring them in the face—they're just so disgusted by it."



s protesting in May against bosses' attempt to silence their union rep

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

PICTURESQUE PICKET LINES



Other unions brought their banners this week

PICTURE: MICHAEL BRADLEY

Strikers are going all-out, now let's get behind them

TRADE UNIONISTS and campaigners are rallying to help the strikers. Union delegations from London's universities joined the picket line with their banners on Thursday of last week.

It followed a visit from members of actors' union Equity the day before, who helped mount an afternoon picket.

And last Friday Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) and Department for Work and Pensions workers visited the workers. So did Green Party members and Black Activists Rising against Cuts (Barac).

The strikers are calling on people to "pick a day, pick a painting" to organise solidarity.

This means choosing a day to organise support for the strike throughout a trade union, campaign or sector—and choosing a painting in the gallery to help build publicity.

Support

So Barac has chosen Miss Lala at the Cirque Fernando by Edgar Degas to publicise its support because it shows a black trapeze artist rising through the air.

And Dpac activists have chosen The Thames below Westminster by Claude Monet. It's a painting of Westminster Bridge—the site of one of their direct action protests.

If you live outside London, invite strikers to visit your town or city. PCS member John Williamson invited a striker to visit York to collect for the strike fund and join a People's Assembly protest at York Art Gallery against entrance fees.

John explained that linking the gallery strikers up with workers and other campaigners is one of the most effective ways of organising solidarity.

He told Socialist Worker, "It's a two-way street. There's massive benefits for us when a striker comes to speak."

"But I like to think it's also

Degas' Miss Lala (detail)—the National Gallery painting sponsored by Black Activists Rising Against Cuts

Monet's Thames Below Westminster (detail) shows the location of a recent Disabled People Against Cuts protest

really helpful for them. It's been quite inspirational for people struggling or striking in their own workplaces.

"Think about how local trade unionists can get a boost from it. And think about it giving confidence to the strikers themselves."

If you can't organise a visit, organise a collection—the strikers need to raise as much as £1,000 a day to keep going.

And if you can't collect, send a card round work or send a message from local activists.

Everyone who supports the strikers can do something to help them win.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state — a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

ESSEX

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

SOUTH LONDON

Hillsborough and the establishment

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near
Effra Rd, facing Windrush
Square), SW2 1EP

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNSELEY

50 years on: Malcolm X — 'By any means necessary'

Thu 27 Aug, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

The great selloff — privatisation and outsourcing

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38-40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Podemos, Spain and social change

Wed 26 Aug, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Greece — the battle against the bankers

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Equity Centre,
Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd, BD1 2LU

BRIGHTON

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: SOUTH

A rebel's guide to Rosa Luxemburg

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CAMBRIDGE

Isis and counter-revolution — a Marxist analysis

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
Shanghai Family Restaurant,
39 Burleigh St, CB1 1DG

CARDIFF

State capitalism — was Russia ever socialist?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

State and Revolution

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

COLCHESTER

Reform or Revolution

Tue 25 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

DERBY

Marxism, gender and sexuality

Thu 3 Sep, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to
Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

Hungry for justice — organising in the fast food industry

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

EDINBURGH

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Clock Cafe,
255 Leith Walk, EH6 8NY

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

Migrants and supporters protesting near Calais over inhumane border controls

THE CRISIS IN CALAIS

Why socialists oppose all border controls

ABERDEEN

Thu 27 Aug, 7pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

CHESTERFIELD

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library (enter
via Cafe Brower),
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QL

DUNDEE

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,

10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

LONDON: KINGSTON

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd
(near Greenwich main
line and DLR Station),
SE10 8JA

MEDWAY

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Nucleus Arts Centre,
Conference Room,
272 High St,
Chatham,
ME4 4BP

PORTSMOUTH

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St,
PO5 4EY

LONDON: BRENT & HARROW

After the collapse of Kids Company — what do socialists say about charities?

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very
close to the station),
W10 5XL

LONDON: CAMDEN

Russia — from workers' state to state capitalism

Thu 27 Aug, 7pm,
Theatro Technis,
26 Crowndale Rd,
NW1 1TT

LONDON: EALING

Why capitalism makes us ill — Marxism and mental health

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 High St,
Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Will technology create a post-capitalist world?

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN

After the collapse of Kids Company — what do socialists say about charities?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
West Indian Cultural Centre,
9 Clarendon Rd,
Haringey,
N8 0DD

LONDON: NEWHAM

Why are there so few strikes?

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: TOTTENHAM

From Selma to Ferguson — racism in the US

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Kitabevi Cafe,
410 Tottenham High Rd,
N17 9JB

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Socialists and women's oppression

Wed 2 Sep, 7pm,
Oxford House, Derbyshire St
(opp Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

What do socialists say about TTIP?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

The housing crisis — how do we solve it?

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church,
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

What is Islamophobia and how do we fight it?

Thu 27 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

How we beat anti-union laws in the past

Thu 27 Aug, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St, NE1 6HQ

NORWICH

Politics and protest in South Africa

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Austerity — the myths used to divide us

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

OXFORD

Do the trade unions still have power?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way
(off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

ROTHERHAM

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

How we beat anti-union laws in the past

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Strand pub,
7-9 Hanover Buildings,
SO14 1JX

SWANSEA

How do ideas change?

Thu 27 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

WIGAN

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 26 Aug, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite
Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Grain Store,
King St, WV1 1ST

YORK

Racism, corruption and football

Wed 26 Aug, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Speakers: Alan Thornett
(Socialist Resistance)
and Richard Bradbury
(Socialist Workers Party)

Sat 5 Sep, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club (opposite
County Hall),
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ

Organised by Dorset Socialists

NATIONAL

We're hungry for justice: Fast Food Rights national organising day

Wed 16 Sep, 10am-6pm,
TUC, Great Russell St,
London, WC1B 3LS.

More info fastfoodrights.wordpress.com

Defending our unions and organising to win

Unite the Resistance national conference
Sat 14 Nov, 11.30am-5pm,
Bloomsbury Central
Baptist Church,
235 Shaftesbury Avenue,
London WC2H 8EP.

Book online now
uniteresist.org

NORFOLK

Burston Strike School rally — the longest strike in history

Sun 6 Sep, 11am-3.45pm,
Church Green, Burston (near
Diss), IP22 5TP

burstonstrikeschool.wordpress.com

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London SW8 2WD

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Hannah and Hanna shows we can break down racism

Director **John Haddrell** told *Socialist Worker* about how he's updated a play about Kosovan refugees, *Hannah and Hanna*, to respond to racism today

JOHN RETALLACK'S play *Hannah and Hanna* was originally produced in 2001, when many refugees were placed in seaside towns and faced a tide of racism.

The new production's director John Haddrell told *Socialist Worker* about the reasons for reviving it at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

"The play is about two teenage girls—Hannah from Margate in Kent, who utterly hates it, and Hanna from Kosovo," he said.

John explained that "Young people's view of the world will be shaped by the National Front and asylum seeker rhetoric".

"The play looks at if the two of them can overcome it."

Can a shared love of karaoke bring the two 16 year olds together?

But John stressed that the play is not a simple rerun of the earlier production.

"We've kept the play set during the Kosovo situation, but it's obviously related to what's going on in Calais," he said.

War

"The Syrian civil war has been going on for four years. But it's become a major issue all of a sudden because of the situation in Calais.

"That's because the media is holding up Britain as the 'go to' destination for asylum seekers—which just isn't true."

They've not changed the text, so it still refers to the National Front rather than the EDL, but they have made changes to try and link it to rise of racism against migrants.

"We've recast Hannah from Margate as a black girl," he said. "What interested me is how Ukip's rhetoric shifted from race to 'foreigners'."

Migrants who've lived in Britain can show hostility to new ones.

John said, "When Hannah's grandmother, who's a migrant, meets Hanna's mum she's distrustful of her."

Migrants blaming new migrants is a reaction to the rise of racism in society, but playing up those divisions isn't useful.

The play's reception has actually surprised some people.

John said, "People who regularly read the Daily Express newspaper and have right wing opinions have been captivated by the play."

"It shows that we can reach past that sort of rhetoric."

Hannah and Hanna
CultureClash Theatre
Directed by John Haddrell
Edinburgh Fringe until 30 August
Facebook **CultureClash Theatre**



SERIN IBRAHIM as Hanna and Cassandra Hercules as Hannah in Culture Clash Theatre's new production

Urban landscapes

EXHIBITION

LONDON DUST

by Rut Blees Luxemburg,
Museum of London, EC2Y 5HN.
Until 10 January 2016. Free entry.
museumoflondon.org.uk

GERMAN photographer Rut Blees Luxemburg has lived, worked and made art about London's changing urban landscape since the 1990s.

This new exhibition of film and photographs focuses on the sharp differences between advertising and reality.

The pictures contrast the CGI images on giant billboards which promote new office towers in the City of London with the dusty reality of the streets where these ads are displayed.

Luxemburg's aim is to highlight the social cleansing of London that's taking place alongside the growing skyscrapers of the City of London.



Walkie Talkie Melted My Golden Calf (2013)

EVENT

DAVID BYRNE'S MELTDOWN

Southbank Centre,
London SE1 8XX.
17 August until 27 August
southbankcentre.co.uk

THE GUEST curator of this year's Meltdown Festival at London's Southbank Centre is music legend David Byrne.

He is best known for fronting new wave band Talking Heads. Their music refused to fit neatly into a single genre—as does this year's festival line up.

"It's quite eclectic," Byrne announces in the publicity. It ranges from flamenco to hip hop and punk.

Guatemalan artist Gaby Moreno, whose music blends soul and jazz, will appear.

Byrne himself is set to play alongside Nigerian funk pioneer William Onyeabor.

Rising singer songwriter



David Byrne

Anna Calvi will be joined by a 12 piece choir.

Alternatively try the drone metal of Sunn O)))

Meltdown also includes film showings with live music.

There will be a performance by Bianca Casady & the CIA.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- On Palestine**
Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé
- Fighting on All Fronts—Popular Resistance in the Second World War**
Edited by Donny Gluckstein
- School Wars**
Melissa Benn
- Them and Us—Fighting the class war 1910-1939**
John Newsinger
- The Establishment—And How They Get Away with It**
Owen Jones

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

Austerity, war and oppression are radicalising thousands of people who want a different society.

But it has also thrown open a debate about how we fight for it.

Do we need a revolution or can we reform capitalism? Would a revolution inevitably end with the horrors of 20th century Russia? Is it possible to trust the “reformist” Labour Party and trade union leaders, and can revolutionaries work with them?

The Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky took on all of these questions. But he wasn’t just an intellectual.

Trotsky was a revolutionary activist whose writings addressed political questions that were thrown up during struggles of the early 20th century.

He fought the most feared forces of the Tsar, Russia’s dictator, until the 1917 Russian Revolution. In the civil war that followed, Trotsky led the Red Army to victory.

He argued for socialist revolution and was willing to challenge orthodox theory to further that fight.

The common belief among Marxists was that socialist revolution could only happen in the Western developed countries.

More backward countries, such as Russia, would need a “bourgeois revolution” first so capitalism could develop.

This would replace the Tsar with a parliamentary democracy and allow capitalist firms to flourish and push out the old feudal ways. Only then would Russia be ready for socialist revolution.

Theory

Trotsky argued against this and developed his “theory of permanent revolution”.

He insisted that Russia couldn’t be seen in isolation from global capitalism.

Russian capitalist firms were late to develop, but they had learned and copied from their more advanced rivals.

He called this “uneven and combined development”. While the Russian peasantry was bigger than the working class, thousands of workers toiled in giant factories in Moscow and Petrograd.

This meant that those workers had enormous power. The peasantry was atomised and difficult to organise. Workers, said Trotsky, were the only force that could bring down the Tsar.

But having tasted their power, workers wouldn’t want to give it up. This meant that they could take the revolution further and form a socialist government, based on workers’ councils.

The two revolutions of 1917 proved Trotsky’s theory.



Mahalla textile workers were a decisive force in bringing down Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak

WHY READ TROTSKY TODAY?

On the 75th anniversary of the assassination of the Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky, Sue Caldwell asks if his ideas can help activists fighting for another world today



Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin

The Tsar was overthrown and replaced by a government in February.

Then another revolution in October, led by Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin’s Bolshevik party, brought the working class to power.

During the revolution Trotsky led the St Petersburg workers’ council and was also the key organiser of the October insurrection.

He writes brilliantly about these events in his



We need to develop his ideas in our struggle for socialism today

book *The History of the Russian Revolution*, a treasure trove of revolutionary strategy and tactics.

Trotsky’s theory is still important today. Capitalism has spread across the globe, but there are still more backward societies.

During the Arab Spring most people argued that the revolutions could replace the dictatorships with liberal democracies.

Revolutionary socialists

rightly argued that Egypt’s large working class would be the decisive force in bringing down the dictator Hosni Mubarak.

But it didn’t have to end there. Through bringing down Mubarak, there was potential for workers to take the revolution further in a socialist direction.

Trotsky also understood that the success of the Russian Revolution was tied to it spreading across Europe.

He was a leading figure in the Communist International, which brought together new Communist parties across the world fighting for revolution.

But the revolutions in Europe, namely in Germany, failed because there wasn’t a large enough independent revolutionary leadership.

The majority of workers in Western Europe looked to mass reformist parties to bring change through parliament.

Trotsky developed a wealth of strategy and tactics to help revolutionary parties grow when the majority of workers still look to “reformism”.

His most important contribution was the “united front”.

Revolutionaries have got to organise independently of reformists to be effective.

But in order to win workers to revolutionary ideas, revolutionaries also have to fight alongside reformists in day to day struggles.

He argued that “any party which mechanically counterposes itself to this need of the working class for unity in action will unfailingly be condemned in the minds of the workers”.

Nowhere was the need for the united front more urgent than to face the rise of the Nazis in Germany.

Trotsky berated the German Communist Party (KPD) for its complacency. He warned that “should fascism come to power it will ride over your skulls and spines like a terrific tank”.

Trotsky argued that the fascists wanted to crush both reformist and revolutionary organisations.

But the KPD had become a tool of Stalin’s imperialist foreign policy and followed its twists and turns. Stalin partly feared that a revolution in Germany would expose his counter-revolution in Russia.

The Communists denounced the Labour-type Social Democrats as “social fascists” and refused to unite with them against Hitler.

While the KPD refused to work with workers who looked to the Social Democrats, it still had significant influence in the working class.

Trotsky’s allies were in tiny and isolated organisations.

Fortunately activists fighting fascism today—from Greece to Britain—have put the lessons from Trotsky’s writings into practice.

In Britain we’ve managed to hold back the fascists.

In the 1970s and 1990s the Anti Nazi League first pushed back the National Front and then the British National Party (BNP). More recently, Unite Against Fascism has humiliated the BNP and the English Defence League (EDL).

This was done by revolutionaries working in a united front with reformists from the Labour Party, Muslim groups and many others.

Leaders

Trotsky’s writings on the united front aren’t just useful when it comes to fighting fascism. His writings on the General Strike of 1926 in Britain grapple with how revolutionaries should deal with the Labour Party and trade union leaders.

Their betrayals meant the strike went down to defeat—and the Communist Party mistakenly argued for power to be handed to the TUC rather than workers.

Trotsky argued against the treachery of the Labour Party and union leaders and for “the ruthless exposure of the reformists’ illusions”.

It’s never easy to get the correct balance right between working with and against reformists and their leaders.

Revolutionaries have to stand with them to defend working class organisation against the bosses and fascists.

But it’s also crucial that revolutionaries argue against them sowing illusions in reformism and build a revolutionary alternative.

For example, we welcome left reformist parties such as Syriza, Podemos and the momentum around the Jeremy Corbyn campaign.

These can push politics to the left. But only the working class has the power to transform society.

Revolutionaries today should build on Trotsky’s work—but we should also challenge orthodoxy.

Trotsky had many strengths but also some serious weaknesses.

He lambasted Stalin as the “gravedigger of the revolution”. Yet he continued to believe that the Soviet Union was still a workers’ state, but with a parasitic clique on top that workers had to topple.

When Eastern Europe fell under the Soviet Union’s domination, many



Picture: Guy Shalman

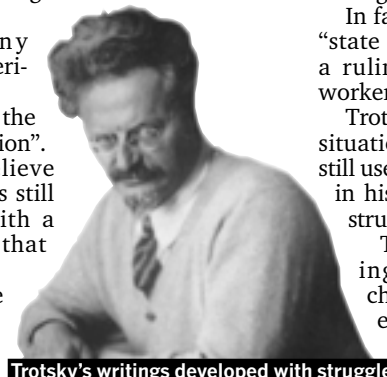
THE RUSSIAN Revolution (top) The fascist English Defence League is stopped by a mass anti-fascist march in Walthamstow, east London, in 2011 (bottom)

of Trotsky’s followers argued those states were also workers’ states with the same parasitic cliques.

But there had never been a successful workers’ revolution in Eastern Europe. If Trotsky’s followers were right then socialism wasn’t necessarily about workers freeing themselves through a revolution.

In fact, Russia had become a “state capitalist” regime, with a ruling class that exploited workers just like bosses do. Trotsky didn’t live to see this situation develop. But we can still use and develop the insights in his writings to further the struggle for socialism today.

The need for working class revolution to change society is as necessary today as it was in Trotsky’s day.



Trotsky’s writings developed with struggle

READ MORE

● **A Rebel’s Guide to Trotsky**

by Esme Choonara £3.00

● **History of the Russian Revolution**

by Leon Trotsky £22.99

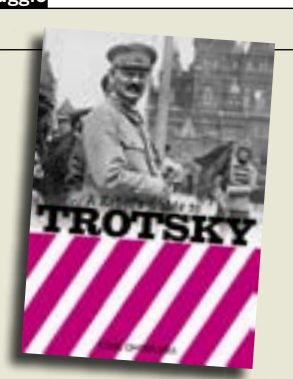
● **Fascism: What it is and How to Fight it**

by Leon Trotsky £4.99

● **Trotskyism After Trotsky: the Origin of the International Socialists**

by Tony Cliff £4.50

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Supermarkets milk the system for all it’s worth

Carlo Morelli explains how milk is both too cheap for farmers and too expensive for us, thanks to retail bosses skimming off profits



Protesting farmers empty supermarket shelves of milk

FOR SEVERAL weeks dairy farmers have been emptying shelves, blockading distribution centres and even bringing cows to protest inside supermarkets.

They are right to be angry at retail bosses cutting the prices they receive for supplying milk. But they are wrong to suggest we should pay higher prices.

Increasing the price of milk in supermarkets passes the blame for the crisis of the food system onto working class people so that dairy farmers can boost their income.

Average household expenditure has been falling since 2006. We can’t afford to pay more for food.

The blame really lies with the large-scale retailers that have increasingly dominated control over the food sector.

Four firms dominate the sector with over 80 per cent of the market share.

They invested in new large formats to dominate the market and boost profits.

Control

And they sought to maintain this control by expanding into non-food and internet retailing.

So Tesco sold food, clothes, electrical goods and even insurance, before becoming Britain’s largest internet retailer.

The food retailers also sought to generate more profits by expanding into global markets. New firms entered the market to gain a share of these profits.

The world’s largest retailer Walmart bought Asda in 1999.

And European multinationals Aldi and Lidl competed over price.

But profit margins have been continually under threat—resulting in repeated crises within the food sector.

One response by the

BACK STORY

Dairy farmers have been protesting over the price of milk

● They say the price of milk is lower than the cost of producing it

● Supermarket chains have been competing to keep the price of milk down

● And they have been buying dairy cheaper from international suppliers

● But farmers want supermarkets to charge customers higher prices

retailers has been to put pressure on suppliers to lower prices.

Repeated food scandals have been created by this squeeze in prices paid to suppliers.

Large multinational food producers and smaller scale producers, particularly in the livestock industry, took dangerous shortcuts to maintain profits.

The result was that shoppers bought products infected with the deadly BSE



Large food producers took dangerous short cuts to maintain profits

disease, and more recently why drug-tainted horsemeat was passed off as beef.

One reason why the National Farmers Union (NFU) promotes demands for higher food prices is because they seek to speak for big business in farming.

The NFU is not a trade union—it is a lobby group of big business.

Class

It ignores the fact that there is a strong class distinction within the farming industry.

Over a third of farmland is farmed by tenant farmers with little control over their farming.

Large, absent landowners simply seek to generate rent from their land, irrespective of the longer term implications for the food production system.

As a result there is little incentive to farm sustainably within British farming.

Only by direct subsidies can farmers be persuaded to stop destructive practices.

That means we end up paying high prices for food through direct payments in our shops, as well as indirectly through payments to large landowners.

The answer to the crisis is greater control and regulation of the food production industry—not making consumers pay still higher prices to big businesses.

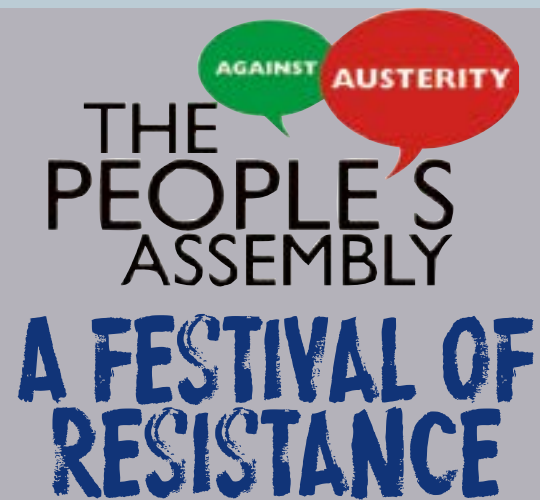
Instead of protests for increasing milk prices, farmers’ protests should call for nationalisation of the food industry and higher wages for working class people.

RAGE AGAINST THE TORIES

DEMONSTRATE NO TO AUSTERITY

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER
TORY PARTY CONFERENCE
MANCHESTER

Assemble 12.30pm with a rally 1pm on Oxford Road
Demonstration called by the TUC tuc.org.uk



The People's Assembly and friends from supporting organisations and institutions will host a series of events throughout the week.

Topics will include—trade unions, welfare, racism, housing, Islamophobia, war, education, climate, media, TTIP, transport, NHS, economy, Scotland and Europe.

These meetings will run alongside a series of direct actions and protests all over Manchester and around the Tory party conference.

Evenings will see a full spectrum of entertainment including huge gigs featuring international artists, “Laugh them out of town” comedy nights, spoken word and other performances.

THEPEOPLESASSEMBLY.ORG.UK

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Tension is increasing on the Underground

Bosses' attacks on the working conditions of London Underground staff are just one part of a wider attempt to get workers and passengers to pay for austerity, argues Raymie Kiernan

TUBE WORKERS have fought back against the Tories' agenda. The two 24-hour shutdowns in July and August showed the power unions have to resist.

Transport for London (TfL) bosses claim these were down to greed from already well paid workers.

The truth is that the workload is increasing as the number of passenger journeys continues to rise. But bosses are ramming through cuts and expecting work to continue as normal.

"Management want 838 fewer station staff, and more managers," RMT union member Lynda told Socialist Worker. "Currently we get 28 days' notice of what time and where we will be working, and only in a small group of stations."

"Now they want us to work anywhere on the whole line we work on at 24 hours' notice. How are you supposed to plan your life with shifts like that?"

Reshape

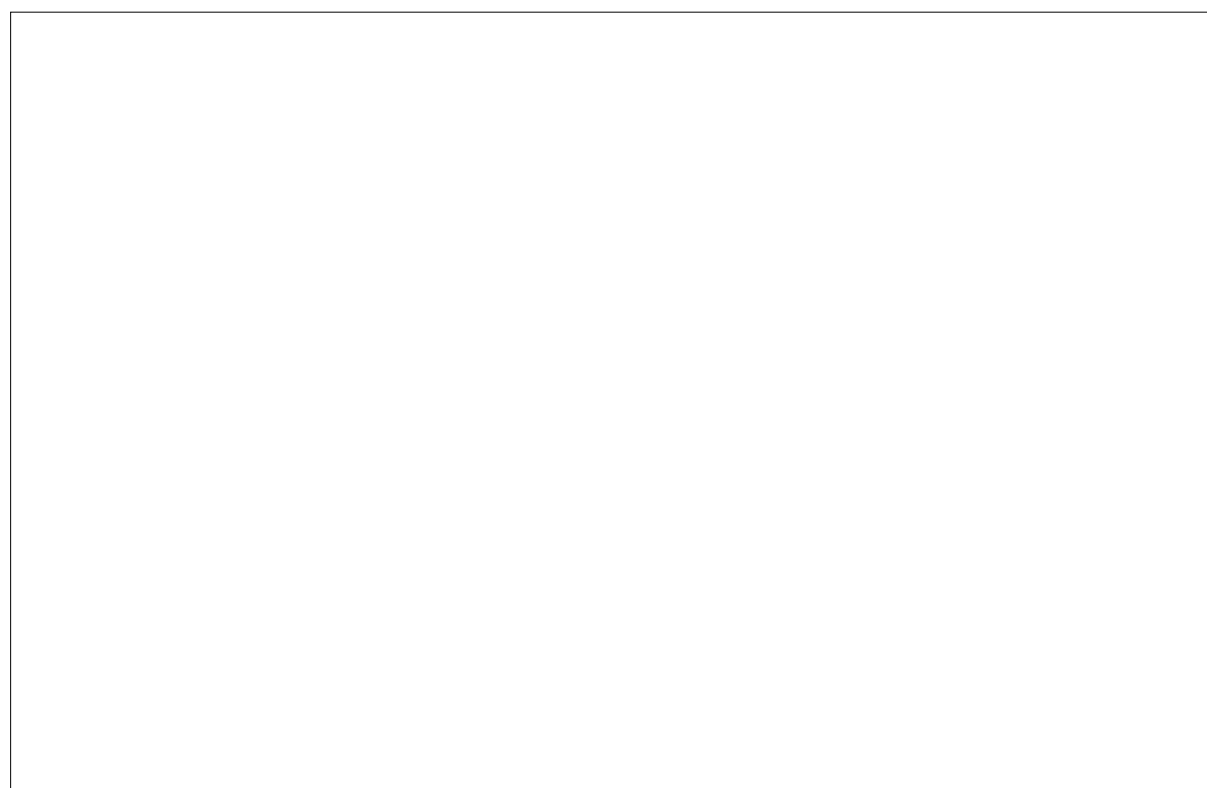
TfL's "efficiencies programme" has cut £13 billion, with a further £3 billion more still to come.

Tory mayor Boris Johnson's transport agency is using the government's austerity drive to try and reshape the capital's transport services.

And he wants workers and passengers to pay.

Fares rise above inflation each year as budgets go down. Workers are resisting the imposition of new conditions linked to the Night Tube that would introduce 24-hour running on some lines at weekends.

But they are also fighting the



BOSSSES ARE trying to worsen conditions for workers on London's Tube

ongoing restructuring of stations that threatens jobs, safety and the service.

"They also want to make a quarter of us work more nights and weekends," Lynda said.

"For many that could mean one weekend off in ten, or worse. Basically they want more work from fewer people, travelling longer distances and they could also be working on their own."

This is the bosses' vision for the whole network—and they won't stop at stations.

On top of all this every ticket office is to be closed despite Johnson's promise in 2010 to win votes that "every station that has a ticket office will continue to have one".

The long term plan is to replace them as part of redeveloping bits of stations into mini shopping malls.

This has already begun at some stations. TfL's 5,700-acre portfolio of land and buildings around stations, railways and roads—one of London's biggest and most valuable estates—is also now being eyed up for development.

It won't be too long before other Tube workers face similar attacks and the widely expected raid on their pensions in the future.

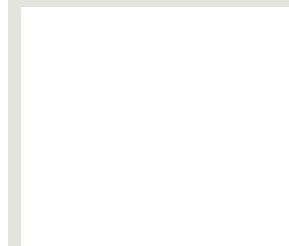
The Tube bosses' gravy train

TfL BOSSES claimed last week that the Tube unions' demands would cost £1.4 billion over the next eight years.

They said passengers would have to cover this through immediate fare increases of 6.5 percent.

It was a predictable response from those responsible for cuts ten times that size.

There was no mention of the money paid out to 413 senior TfL staff last



Peter Hendy—six figure bonus

year of over £100,000.

Over eight years that's over £330 million, not including pension contributions.

The TfL gravy train has been good to some, as they go round the revolving door taking them from corporate to public boardrooms.

Take former TfL commissioner Sir Peter Hendy, now the new chairman of Network Rail.

Hendy's TfL salary last year was £331,362—but with added extras he managed to trouser another £157,526.

Even though he no longer works there, Hendy looks forward to his final TfL bonus—likely to be another six-figure sum.

'Boris gets his weekends off—so why can't we?'

THE NUMBER of people working shifts has increased by 5.2 percent since the economic crisis began in 2007, a new TUC report has found. The number on regular nights is up by 6.1 percent.

Tube driver Graham told Socialist Worker, "Shift work is linked to health and safety issues, but it's not just about that."

"If you work shifts and your kids are at school you'll miss each other."

Tube driver Pat said, "You can go days without seeing your family."

Bosses are trying to introduce a Night Tube, running some lines round the clock at weekends.

The proposed rota for this includes one week with drivers on late and night shifts from Saturday until Sunday.

People aged between 18 and 24 are already twice as likely to work night shifts as they would have been 20 years ago. RMT



Strikers at Finsbury Park in July

union health and safety rep Cat told Socialist Worker, "Putting more people onto night work will mean their health will get worse."

"You're more prone to things such as obesity and diabetes. People are also more open to depression."

Cat added, "If you work nights and shifts your level of concentration can go down. We deal with lives and don't want accidents to happen."

Tube driver Michael

told Socialist Worker, "Some people like night shifts but they don't suit everybody. You've got to have a balance between family and social life."

"They're pushing through cuts and making fewer people work more."

Graham added, "Boris Johnson, the MPs and City Hall bods all have weekend off—there's no problem there."

Tomáš Tengely-Evans

Some names have been changed

IN BRIEF

Friction over cuts at BBC Asian Network

NUJ UNION members at the BBC in Birmingham were set to walkout on Wednesday of this week.

Staff working on the Asian Network are fighting plans to move the flagship Bobby Friction show to London and axe one of two editor roles.

The NUJ says workers decided to strike after bosses threatened them over a silent protest held last week.

Indesit workers in better pay battle

MORE THAN 200 delivery drivers and warehouse staff at kitchen appliances firm Indesit were set to take four strike days over pay.

The walkouts are planned for Friday of this week, Thursday and Friday of next week, and 1 September.

The Unite union members want a better pay deal than the 1.5 percent bosses are offering.

Refuse staff kick up stink in Bromley

AROUND 100 refuse collectors in Bromley, south east London, were set to strike for a pay rise on Monday of next week.

Private bosses Veolia have offered 1.5 percent—the latest in a long line of below inflation pay deals. The Unite union members want 4 percent.

More strikes are planned on 3 and 4 September.

Unite calls off EDF action for talks

THE UNITE union suspended two days of strikes by meter readers and others at energy company EDF.

The 500 workers were set to strike on Wednesday of last week and Thursday of this week over several grievances around pay and conditions.

But on the eve of the first walkout Unite agreed to an offer of talks.

Stansted Airport workers strike

GMB union members who work as security scanner operators at Stansted Airport, London, were set to strike on Sunday of this week.

Privateer Mitie is only offering workers a 1.5 percent pay deal—despite a 13.5 percent rise in profits.

Defend UCU union activist Gary Duke

BOSSSES AT City of Liverpool College have suspended UCU union chair Gary Duke.

Gary has led a fight against attacks on workers' terms and conditions at the college. Many see the suspension as an attack on the union.

A UCU Emergency General Meeting on Friday of this week and will discuss a motion for strikes.

CLEANERS



PART OF the protest against Sotheby's last Saturday in central London

PICTURE: LEWIS NIELSEN

FIRE SERVICE

Wave of walkouts set for Essex fire service

by ANNETTE MACKIN

FIREFIGHTERS AND control room staff in Essex were set to begin a rolling programme of strikes this week against cuts that will wreck the county's fire service.

Essex fire services have already suffered severe cutbacks. The proposed new cuts will mean that another 187 jobs could go, slashing the number of firefighters overall from 656 to 477—a 25 percent reduction.

Firefighters struck earlier this month for nine hours against the cutbacks. They announced fresh strike dates beginning on Monday of this week with a walkout from 9am to 6pm.

They are set to walk out again on Wednesday of this



999 control operators in Essex on strike earlier this year

PICTURE: GUY SPALLMAN

week from 9am to 6pm.

Striking control room staff will join some firefighter staff on Friday of this week from 9am-7pm. The emergency 999 control operators are striking against the cuts, shift changes and an inadequate new computer system.

Control workers plan to walk out on Saturday and Sunday of this week from 7am-7pm. They will be joined by firefighters again on Monday of next week from 9am-6pm.

● Send messages of support on Twitter @EssexFBU or email EssexFBU@live.co.uk

OBITUARIES

Peter Mortimer 1936-2015

PETER MORTIMER, a member of Barnsley Socialist Workers Party (SWP), has died aged 78.

Peter joined the SWP in 1995 after leaving the Labour Party in disgust when it abolished Clause 4.

He was a founder member of the Barnsley Dearne branch and quickly became one of its mainstays, remaining a committed member of the SWP for the rest of his life.

His first job was as a miner at Caphouse Colliery. He went on to be a medic in the RAF and then a technician.

He eventually went back into the mining industry in 1974 at Hickleton Colliery in Thurnscoe, the village where he lived.

Peter impressed all who met him with his burning hatred of the Tories and

the Blairites.

He livened up many a meeting by railing against his political enemies with the most colourful and inventive rhetoric.

You can get a glimpse of that anger in the anti-war film, "We Are Many" which includes a brief interview with Peter on an anti-war demonstration.

He was an avid reader with a particular enthusiasm for Eleanor Marx.

Two of his last purchases from the branch bookstall were the Rachel Holmes biography and the Siobhan Brown rebel's guide.

Peter bore the pain of his final few months with incredible bravery but we would rather remember him in full flow exposing the hypocrisies of our rulers.

His comrades and friends will miss him, along with his large and extended family.

Barnsley SWP

Andy Smalley

COMRADES WILL be saddened to learn of the untimely death of Andy Smalley.

Andy was a member of Stockport SWP in the 1980s and 1990s and part of that great struggle against Thatcher's Poll Tax. He was convicted for non-payment and sent to jail along with other non-payers. He was an inspiration to others and his spirit was never daunted.

Andy was a keen walker and mountain biker and he died tragically in a mountain biking accident. Our thoughts are with his partner Megan, his sister Angie and all his family and friends.

Send messages of condolence to Angie Smalley, 21 Royle Avenue, Glossop, SK13 7RD. Andy's Facebook page is still open if people want to leave messages there.

Phil Ramsell

Solidarity with Sotheby's 2

AROUND 70 people demonstrated last Saturday against the victimisation of trade unionists working at Sotheby's auction house.

Sotheby's originally suspended four cleaners and porters for taking part in a protest for sick pay and against victimisation.

Regular protests have forced Sotheby's to reinstate two of them, but Percy and Barbara are still fighting

for reinstatement.

Sotheby's have accused them of "inciting violence" due to the weekly protests outside the auction house near Oxford Street in central London.

Candy Udwin and Alan Brown, two trade unionists who have also been victimised in their workplaces, joined the demo in solidarity.

Lewis Nielsen

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Victory against dismissal

A FIREFIGHTER has won her tribunal against Cambridgeshire fire bosses after a judge found her dismissal to be an "irrational and perverse exercise".

Kerry Baigent was an FBU union rep and a former secretary of the union's national women's committee.

She has been awarded nearly £10,000 in compensation.

The tribunal found that bosses had made a decision to impose an untenable working pattern on Kerry, who had been a firefighter for 21 years.

She had managed her work shifts in Cambridge to travel back to her home and

family in Somerset. But bosses compulsorily transferred her to one of only two fire stations in Cambridgeshire that work shifts which made her previous set up unworkable.

The decision to alter her working arrangements was taken "behind closed doors" and "entirely lacked transparency".

Kerry said after the ruling, "I was forced out of my job by the actions of a senior management team who made a clear decision to make my working life untenable."

"I hope my legal victory inspires firefighters in similar positions to fight back."

LGBT PRIDE

Political Pride in Cardiff

MORE THAN 1,000 people joined the 30th annual Pride march in Cardiff, South Wales, last Saturday.

With a £3,000 cost per stall in the official rally, it has become one of the most corporate Pride marches.

But activists managed to put radical politics of fighting for liberation

back into Pride this year.

Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) led a noisy trade union bloc near the front. Activists did a solidarity collection for the National Museum of Wales workers' strike fund.

Sainsbury's and Tesco were relegated to the back.

Thanks to Kris Hedges

UNISON ELECTION

Left wing challenge for public sector union leader

THE UNISON union has begun the process to elect a new general secretary.

At least five candidates, including current general secretary Dave Prentis, have put themselves forward.

Socialist Worker supports John Burgess, branch secretary of Barnet Unison. John has led a fight with the local branch leadership against the Tories' neoliberal experiment in the north London council for many years.

It's a model of mass privatisation that David Cameron wants to roll out nationally and would mean the end of local

government as we know it.

Support for John's campaign is gathering real momentum. Regional meetings are being set up to plan an effective left wing challenge to the current leadership.

A national planning meeting was set to take place this Saturday in Manchester.

The nomination period for candidates runs from 2 September to 9 October.

Raymie Kiernan

● For full details of planning meetings, to download John's nomination letter and get more information visit johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.co.uk

MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

Campaign demands jailed Munir is freed

by MARK KRANTZ

MOAZZAM BEGG spoke at a Free Munir Farooqi campaign meeting in Manchester on Sunday of last week.

Munir Farooqi is currently serving four life sentences after being convicted of terrorism offences.

For years Munir ran a bookstall on Manchester markets selling religious books and CDs.

Campaign supporter Nahella Ashraf pointed out, "These sort of books can be found in every Muslim's home."

Two undercover police officers befriended Munir and pretended to be Muslim converts. They then spied on him and his family for over a year, gathering "evidence".

Conviction

Snippets of conversations taken out of context became the sole basis of Munir's conviction.

Although his son Harris, supposedly Munir's right hand man, was acquitted of all terrorism charges.

Munir's family and supporters have been campaigning for years over this miscarriage of justice.

Moazzam pointed out



MOAZZAM BEGG at the Farooqi campaign meeting

PICTURE: MARK KRANTZ

that, "The head of counter terrorism in the North West, Tony Porter, said 'We did not recover any blueprint, attack plan or endgame, the conviction was not to do with any plan for physical attack or any attack plan—it was to do with ideology'."

Moazzam contrasted the Farooqi conviction with the case of Ryan McGee.

"A former soldier, McGee, from Manchester was caught

with two improvised explosive devices to which he had added nuts and bolts in order to maximise any shrapnel wounds.

"He also had EDL flags and KKK literature.

"Knowing that McGee had an ideology and a set of weapons—which Munir Farooqi did not have—McGee was given a two-year jail sentence. The judge refused to refer to him as a terrorist."

The Free Munir Farooqi campaign now plans to broaden its activities.

Munir's daughter Zulaikha Farooqi said, "We will not give up until our father is free."

●Get involved—go to freemunir.org for more information and to sign a petition in defence of Munir. Search for Free Munir Farooqi on Facebook or FreeMFarooqi on Twitter

ANTI-RACISM



TAKING ON the fascists last Saturday

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

United protest in Liverpool stops Nazi group marching

THE NAZI "White Man March" was humiliated in Liverpool last Saturday.

A vibrant 1,000-strong Merseyside Unite Against Fascism (UAF) demonstration marched through the city centre. Merseyside UAF occupied the Nazis' hoped-for rally point at Pier Head.

UAF members and supporters also stood with people at Lime Street, where the 24 Nazis decided to abandon their march.

Regional unions across Merseyside backed the demonstration along with 17 city councillors and others.

Messages of support were read out from Gerry Gable of Searchlight and others.

A fantastic day! No Pasaran!

Merseyside Unite Against Fascism

■UP TO 100 protested in Walsall against the racist English Defence League (EDL) last Saturday.

ROTHERHAM

AN ELDERLY Muslim man is fighting for his life after suffering what is thought to have been a racist attack as he walked to morning prayers.

Two men have been charged with assaulting 81 year old Mushin Ahmed on 10 August in the Eastwood area of Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

The attack followed a series of marches by racist and fascist groups trying to exploit an abuse scandal in the town (see page 5).

A friend, Mohammed Rashid, told a local newspaper, "He always

wears the traditional robe and headgear and it's possible, with some things that have been blamed on Muslims, that this is the reason he has been attacked."

The Nazi Britain First group plans to demonstrate in Rotherham on Saturday 5 September. Rotherham Unite Against Fascism (UAF) is mobilising against it.

"Racist attacks happen when Nazi groups march because it gives confidence to racists," said Phil Turner from Rotherham UAF.

"We must organise against them."

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Sita workers want one rate for the job

by DAVE SEWELL

RANK AND file construction workers protested at all four gates of the ICI Wilton chemical works in Redcar, Teesside, on Friday of last week.

Scaffolder and Unite union member Tony Seaman told Socialist Worker, "At one gate we had enough people not to let anyone in until 10am.

"In others people went in slowly, after taking leaflets and signing petitions.

"Some of the police just try to intimidate you. But we've got a democratic right to protest.

"We told them, you start nicking people here and see what the consequences are."

Another protest was set for Wednesday of this week.

Construction consortium Sita Sembcorp is breaking national agreements on pay by bringing in Romanian workers on a lower wage.

Activists accuse bosses of sowing division by telling the Romanian workers that the union is out to get them sent away.

Tony said, "It's not about foreign workers at all—it's about rates of pay that break the national agreement.

"We've had Romanian workers come up and talk to us on the protest, and we tell them we're not trying to get rid of you.

"All our leaflets have Romanian on them, so they can read it.

"The union even went with interpreters to talk to them, but none of them

came in that day they were so scared".

It's right to try and build unity.

Sticking to the national agreement should mean giving the Romanian workers a pay rise—not kicking them out.

As well as Wednesday's protest, the workers were set to attend one of Jeremy Corbyn's meetings on Tuesday of this week.

They plan to come to London for a national rank and file meeting on Saturday.

●National Construction Rank & File Meeting, Saturday 22 August, 1-4pm, Unite Office Holborn, 128 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8TN. With speakers Unite national construction officer Bernard McAulay and regional official Steve Cason

OFFSHORE WORKERS

Offshore pilots vote on strikes

HELICOPTER PILOTS are considering strikes over offshore helicopter operator redundancies in the North Sea.

A meeting in Aberdeen last week expressed pilots' fury at the "ruthless exploitation" by bosses of lower oil prices.

A ballot of the members of the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) was set to close as Socialist Worker went to press. Any strikes would have a major impact on offshore operations.

In recent weeks helicopter firms have announced their intention to slash up to 200 jobs. Balpa general secretary Jim McAuslan warned "that the consequence of these cuts will be felt in the safety culture of the North Sea".

BLACK LIVES MATTER



PART OF the US Embassy protest

PICTURE: BEN CAMERON

Action at US Embassy over black deaths in custody

AROUND 100 protesters gathered by the US Embassy in central London last Saturday evening to mark the first anniversary of Mike Brown's death in Ferguson.

The angry and defiant rally also decried the continuing killing of young black men at the hands of the racist police system.

Demonstrators covered the Roosevelt Memorial in Grosvenor Square opposite the embassy with photographs of people who have been recently killed.

Campaign group #BlackLivesMatter organised the rally. Organisers plan further rallies. **Ben Cameron**

TUBE STAFF CAN DERAIL ATTACKS

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

TUBE WORKERS in London were set to strike on Tuesday and Thursday of next week against attacks on conditions, health and safety and jobs.

This includes the introduction of Night Tube, which would make some lines 24-hour on weekends.

But the united walkouts by the Aslef, RMT, TSSA and Unite unions last month and earlier this month shut down the network.

They showed the unions' power to resist Transport for London (TfL) bosses.

Workers will still have to fight Night Tube—but the shutdowns made bosses back down from imposing new working conditions.

Victory

It's no victory, but it's a far cry from London's Tory mayor Boris Johnson insisting, "They can strike until they are blue in the face. The Night Tube will go ahead."

He tried to obscure the issues provoking the strike, claiming it was "political" and just "sour grapes" because Labour had lost the election.



TUBE WORKERS picket King's Cross station in central London during a walkout earlier this month

PICTURE: TOM KAY

But after July's shutdown Johnson back-pedalled and said he was "not hung up on the date" for Night Tube starting despite originally mooting 12 September.

TfL bosses pumped out propaganda about greedy Tube workers on £50,000 a year wanting more money.

Drivers are paid that, but they are a minority. And why shouldn't workers get higher wages?

Many station staff have had their wages slashed from £32,000 to £23,000 a year as a result of radical cuts and the reorganisation of stations.

But the disputes are not about pay, but a wider range of attacks (see page 17).

Following the shutdowns and the threat of more action, Tube bosses said that they are "operationally ready" for 12 September "but not at any cost".

It is a big shift—but it is by no means the end of the dispute.

There is no negotiated agreement and bosses still reserve the right to impose conditions at a later date.

Unfortunately, the walkouts next week will not include Tube drivers' union Aslef.

Only the RMT, TSSA and Unite unions had confirmed the dates as Socialist Worker

went to press.

United action has forced a change in the bosses' strategy.

Solidarity between Tube workers next week can maintain that unity, even if the leaderships have temporarily misplaced it.

Trade unionists should not cross picket lines. It's not about what union workers are in, but which side they are on.

More rail strikes

FIRST GREAT Western (FGW) rail workers in the RMT union were set to launch another wave of industrial action from this weekend.

They're fighting bosses' threats to their jobs, services and safety.

The dispute with FGW bosses stems from the introduction of new Hitachi intercity trains on the Great Western and South Wales main lines.

All members, excluding maintenance workers, are set to strike for 24 hours this Sunday.

A further 72-hour walkout is set for 29, 30 and 31 August.

Maintenance crew are also set for two 24-hour walkouts on 29 and 31 August and are instructed not to work any overtime or rest days on 23 and 30 August.

Gallery workers across England, Scotland and Wales coordinate walkouts

WORKERS AT the National Gallery in central London, the National Museum of Wales and National Galleries of Scotland are set to strike together next Saturday.

The PCS union members at the National Gallery were on their eighth day of all-out strike as Socialist Worker went to press.

They are striking to defend their terms and conditions following a privatisation deal (see pages 10&11).

Meanwhile PCS members at National Museum of Wales's seven sites have been fighting plans to scrap

premium payments for weekend working.

A strategy of rolling strikes across Wales starting from Wednesday of this week is set to climax with a walkout at all sites next Saturday.

And PCS members at National Galleries Scotland were set to begin a seven-day strike from this Monday over a similar dispute.

So workers at galleries and museums across Britain could all strike on the same day.

The National Gallery strikers are also fighting for the reinstatement of victimised union



Supporters including victimised Unite rep Alan Brown join pickets

rep Candy Udwin.

Candy was suspended and later sacked for drafting a question about the cost of hiring private security firm CIS.

The gallery had brought in CIS security guards to staff its Sainsbury Wing.

Candy's appeal hearing concluded on Tuesday of last week.

But she had still not been notified of the result as Socialist Worker went to press.

PCS officials were set to meet for talks with new gallery director Gabriele Finaldi on Thursday of this week.

Finaldi had just started

as director this Monday.

He briefly spoke with Candy before crossing the picket line on Tuesday.

The National Gallery strikers have received widespread support.

Candy told a picket line, "We've closed more rooms in the gallery since we've gone all-out."

"We've had more support on our picket lines."

"And we've had more people signing the petition."

The possibility of coordinated action next Saturday puts them in an even stronger position.

Nick Clark